

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region

Order No. 98-57

Requiring The Russian River County Sanitation District  
And The Sonoma County Water Agency  
To Cease And Desist From Threatening To Discharge  
In Violation Of Waste Discharge Requirements

Sonoma County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, finds that:

1. The Russian River County Sanitation District (RRCSD), 2150 W. College Avenue, Santa Rosa, owns a municipal wastewater treatment facility located southeast of Vacation Beach and north of the Russian River on Neely Road. The Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) is under contract to operate and maintain the Russian River Wastewater Treatment Facility. The treatment facility serves the communities of Armstrong Park, Drakes Road area, Guerneville, Guerneville Park, Rio Nido and Vacation Beach. Treated effluent is disposed of by irrigation during the irrigation season and discharged to the Russian River during the discharge season.
2. The Regional Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 92-51 for the wastewater treatment facility on May 28, 1992. This Order also serves as a NPDES Permit and allows the RRCSD to discharge up to one percent of the flow of the receiving water during the period of October 1 through May 14 of each year.
3. The RRCSD and the SCWA bypassed treatment and discharged approximately 30 million gallons of partially disinfected raw wastewater to the Russian River after receiving excessive inflows from a flood event in February 1998.
4. The following sections of Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. 92-51, were violated:

B. Effluent Limitations

1. Only advanced treated wastewater, as defined by the numerical limitations below shall be discharged from the wastewater treatment plant to the Russian River (Discharger Serial No. 001). The advanced treated wastewater shall be adequately disinfected, oxidized, coagulated, clarified and filtered (or equivalent), as determined by the State Department of Health Services. Advanced treated wastewater shall not contain constituents in excess of the following limits:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>30-Day Average</u>	<u>7-Day Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>
Suspended Solids	mg/l	10	15	20
Coliform Organisms	MPN/100ml	2.2	---	23
Chlorine Residual	mg/l	---	---	0.1
...				

4. The arithmetic mean of the BOD (20°C, 5-day) and Suspended Solids values by weight for effluent samples collected in a period of 30 consecutive days shall not exceed 15 percent of the arithmetic mean of the values, by weight, for influent samples collected at approximately the same times during the same period (85 percent removal).

E. Provisions

13. Bypass

The intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility is prohibited.

5. The following sections of Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 92-51, were violated:

Monitoring Effluent Discharge to the Russian River (Discharge Serial No. 001)

During periods of discharge to the Russian River, samples shall be collected at some point in the system prior to any discharge to the river and downstream from the last connection through which effluent can be admitted to that discharge.

The following shall constitute the surface water discharge monitoring program:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>Sample Frequency</u>
Settleable Matter	ml/l	grab	daily
Turbidity	NTU	grab	weekly

6. The following section of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) was violated:

Section 4. IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

POINT SOURCE MEASURES

WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS:

. . . the Regional Water Board declares that point source waste discharges, except as stipulated by the Thermal Plan, the Ocean Plan, and the action plans and policies contained in the Point Source Measures section of this Water Quality Control Plan, are prohibited in the following locations in the Region:

North Coastal Basin

. . .

4. The Russian River and its tributaries during the period of May 15 through September 30 and during all other periods when the waste discharge flow is greater than one percent of the receiving stream's flow as set forth in NPDES permits. In addition, the discharge of municipal waste during October 1 through May 14 shall be of advanced treated wastewater in accordance with effluent limitations contained in NPDES permits for each affected discharger, and shall meet a median coliform level of 2.2 mpn/100 ml.
7. The RRCSD violated Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. 92-51 and the Basin Plan. The SCWA violated the Basin Plan.

8. The lack of adequate storage capacity and sewer infiltration and inflow threaten to cause future violations of Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. 92-51 and Waste Discharge Prohibitions contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region.
9. An evidentiary hearing on this matter was held before the Regional Water Board on May 28, 1998, in the Regional Water Board Meeting Room, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. The Regional Water Board considered all evidence presented at the hearing.
10. The adoption of a cease and desist order is an enforcement action to protect the environment, and is therefore exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations, sections 15308 and 15321(a)(2), and Water Code section 13389.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Russian River County Sanitation District and the Sonoma County Water Agency shall cease and desist from threatening to discharge in violation of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 92-51 and the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region in accordance with the following schedule:

TASK

DATE

- A. Prepare and submit a report, to the satisfaction of the Executive Officer, detailing short term solutions including a time schedule of key actions that will prevent discharging waste contrary to Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. 92-51 and contrary to Waste Discharge Prohibitions contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region.

August 1, 1998

- B. Prepare and submit a report, to the satisfaction of the Executive Officer, detailing long term solutions including a time schedule of key actions that will prevent discharging waste contrary to Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. 92-51 and contrary to Waste Discharge Prohibitions contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region.

December 1, 1998

Certification

I, Lee A. Michlin, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, on May 28, 1998.

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Lee. A Michlin  
Executive Officer